

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. Canceled.

21. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination comprising:  
a respiratory mask having a rigid mask frame, adjustable headgear for securing said mask on a patient, said headgear including at least one attachment strap, said mask frame having rigidly secured thereto a rigid first connector portion, and a second connector portion adapted for releasable mating with said first connector portion, wherein

said first and second connector portions form a press-release connection between said mask frame and said strap;

said first connector portion is a female connector formed in one piece with said mask frame; and

said second connector portion is a corresponding male connector.

22. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 21, wherein the male connector portion includes a resiliently biased cantilever member depending from a leading end portion of said male connector portion.

23. (Previously Presented) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 22, wherein said cantilever member has a leading end, a trailing end, a locking portion, located intermediate said leading end and trailing end, structured to engage with said first connector portion, and release portion located adjacent said trailing end.